

Today's News - Monday, July 6, 2009

- ArcSpace brings us the Museum of Memory in Granada, and the new Giraffe House at the Rotterdam Zoo.
- King muses (seriously) about what can be done with vacant urban lots now so many building projects are on hold.
- Finding creative uses for empty big-box retail eyesores across the U.S. is not an easy task.
- Sinclair takes U.S. Secretary of Education to task for commenting "it is not about the building" - coming from someone involved in improving school environments.
- Not all are pleased that stimulus project goes to a San Fran/Brit team instead of strictly local talent.
- Italian architect Stella perhaps not the stellar choice for a Berlin project?
- Calys says, "Your bad, Presidio Trust"
- and looks at the odds of 5 possible options for the Fisher art collection.
- A call for Bangladesh, which "tops the list as potentially the most affected country by climate change," to make its architecture more climate-responsive.
- Can Mumbai's new bridge become its first "heritage icon" in a city with few buildings "that could be termed beautiful or iconic" (no pix, but worth looking up).
- Venice wants its Accademia Bridge to be redesigned to provide access for the disabled; the catch: bidding architects and construction firms will have to prove they can raise the sponsorship to finance €5m project.
- Rybczynski visits Johnson's Glass House estate, "an autobiographical chronicle of the mercurial architect's trajectory through the architectural fashions of the 20th century" - and it gets hot in the summer (great slide show).
- Kamin gives eloquent credit to the "forgotten man of the Plan of Chicago" (no, Burnham didn't come up with it alone).
- Hawthorne visits Neverland Ranch: "I found a nearly bottomless supply of what I'd come in search of: architectural symbolism, for starters."
- Rawn's "circuitous route to architecture" and what makes his work "modern and contemporary" - with no "defiant signature styles, he does not design Statements."
- CTBUH announces four regional winners of the 2009 "Best Tall Building" awards.
- A good reason to head to Melbourne next week: State of Design Festival: ": Sampling the Future...?"

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-- Alberto Campo Baeza: MA: Andalucia's Museum of Memory, Granada, Spain
-- LAM architects: Giraffe House, Rotterdam Zoo, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

High-rises on hold: What to do with empty lots? ...what to do with land cleared for towers that may not rise for another decade - if at all...With ingenuity and a modest investment, San Francisco could breathe life into these voids until the demand for development returns. By John King - San Francisco Chronicle

As retailers cut back cities confront 'ghostboxes': As the recession takes its toll on big-box retailers, more communities across the country are having to confront...the eyesore of giant empty stores...Many are trying to find creative uses for those near windowless monoliths. -- Julia Christensen - Associated Press (AP)

Aspen Ideas Festival: Arne Duncan, it is also about the building: ...what worried me...was [Secretary of Education] comment that 'it is not about the building'. Sorry Arne, while I agree it is about the children and while teacher performance is important - it is ALSO about the building. By Cameron Sinclair/Architecture for Humanity - Huffington Post

Stimulus Snafu? Controversy ensues after GSA [General Services Administration] chooses Foster team for Frisco project...ELS/Foster + Partners got the nod for one of the largest stimulus-bill projects to date in San Francisco: the \$121 million renovation of 50 UN Plaza... -- Arthur Brown Jr. (1936); SOM; Architectural Resources Group/HKS; Hornberger + Worstell/William McDonough - The Architect's Newspaper

Italian architect selected to design a replica of a 18th-Century palace in the heart of Berlin has dismissed claims he was not eligible for the multimillion dollar [Humboldt Forum] project...said there was no truth to allegations the architect had failed to meet the requirements set by the selection committee. -- Francesco Stella - Earthtimes.org

You can't always get what you want: Fisher calls a halt to CAMP [Contemporary Art Museum of the Presidio]...Your bad, Presidio Trust...There are five possible options for the Fisher art collection, each with varying probabilities of success. By George Calys - San Francisco Examiner

Architecture: Adapting to climate change: Bangladesh tops the list as potentially the most affected country by climate change...based on the Climate Risk Index 2009...The architecture of the built environment needs to be climate-responsive in order to cope with these changing variables. By Z.N. Ahmed, Department of Architecture, Bangladesh University - The New Nation (Bangladesh)

Over time, sea link can turn into heritage icon: For once, metal and concrete are evoking admiration rather than alarm in heritage circles...full of praise for the artistry and skill of the new Bandra-Worli Sea Link...If it seems to be a city on the lookout for tasteful architecture, it is no surprise...few buildings have come up in Mumbai that could be

termed beautiful or iconic.- Times of India

Venice's Accademia Bridge to be redesigned: The city council aims to provide access for the disabled—but refuses to contribute to the €5m cost...architects and construction firms bidding to undertake the project will also have to prove they can raise the sponsorship to finance the work...- The Art Newspaper (UK)

If You Live in a Glass House: It gets quite hot in the summer. Visiting Philip Johnson's most durable architectural achievement...The little buildings are an autobiographical chronicle of the mercurial architect's trajectory through the architectural fashions of the 20th century. By Witold Rybczynski [slide show essay]- Slate

The forgotten man of the Plan of Chicago: co-author Edward Bennett helped realize its recommendations and was a pioneer in the field of city planning. Architecture can be tough on second bananas...no mere sidekick...He was a significant figure in his own right: a pioneer in the field of city planning... By Blair Kamin [images]- Chicago Tribune

Michael Jackson transformed Neverland Ranch much as he did music: The architecture on his Santa Barbara County property reflects his androgynous, perpetually childlike model of superstardom -- and his unique if disjointed take on the celebrity compound....I found a nearly bottomless supply of what I'd come in search of: architectural symbolism, for starters... By Christopher Hawthorne [slide show]- Los Angeles Times

Starting slow, finishing fast: William Rawn's circuitous route to architecture made him a keen listener - and an award winner...Unlike architects with defiant signature styles, he does not design Statements. "He is modern and contemporary, but not Frank Gehry off-the-wall"... [slide show]- Boston Globe

CTBUH 8th Annual Awards Announced: ...four regional winners of the 2009 "Best Tall Building" awards... -- Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects (KPMB)/Smith Carter Architects; Steven Holl Architects; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); SIAT Architekten/CICO Consulting Architects; John C. Portman, Jr.; Dr. Prabodh V. Banavalkar [images, links]- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)

State of Design Festival: Sampling the Future...? Design Capital business program, Design For Everyone public and cultural program, Design:Made:Trade industry program; in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria July 15-25- State of Design Festival (Australia)

WORDS THAT BUILD: Faster! Deeper! Broader! Tip #16: How to balance high-speed communication with in-depth communication. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

A City's Artful Heart: In St. Louis, two formerly vacant downtown blocks on the Gateway Mall have been given new life as Citygarden, a serene urban oasis in the heart of the city. -- Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects; studio|durham architects [images]- ArchNewsNow

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